

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data format describing a document, including document data and document intent information said document intent information provided as a set of quantitative values indicative of relative importance of document properties.

2. The data format as described in **claim 1**, wherein said document intent information quantitative values are formatted as a document intent vector.

3. A document processing system, operative to process documents described in a data format including document data and document intent information, said document processing system including quantitative intent capture capabilities.

4. A document processing system, operative to process documents described in a data format including document data and document intent information, said document processing system providing quantitative intent representation and transmission capabilities.

5. A document processing system, operative to process documents described in a data format including document data and document intent information, said document processing system including quantitative intent-based processing capabilities.

6. A document processing device, operative to process documents described in a data format including document data and quantitative document intent information, said document processing device comparing document processing capabilities with quantitative document intent information to determine optimum processing of said document, whereby creator processing intent is retained.

7. An intent capture device, operative to express documents described in a data format including document data and quantitative document intent information, said intent capture device producing the quantitative document intent information either from interaction with the user or by inference from the documents.

8. A data format describing a document, including document data and document intent information said document intent information provided as a set of values indicative of relative importance of document properties.

9. A document creation system, creating a document described in a data format including document data and quantitative document intent information, including

a user interface, at which document data and quantitative document intent information may be entered and displayed;

a document editor, generating and applying document data and quantitative document intent information to a stored document file;

a document formatter, using said document data and quantitative document intent information to format the document, for subsequent display at said user interface.

10. A system as defined in **claim 9**, wherein said display at said user interface interactively occurs during document creation.

11. A system as defined in **claim 9**, wherein during document creation, said user interface displays examples of the effects of examples of quantitative document intent information, which examples are selectable via said user interface to there apply said quantitative document intent information.

12. A document indexing and retrieval system, for storing documents described in a data format including document data and quantitative document intent information, including

a document storage device;

a document indexing system, indexing documents in accordance with quantitative document intent information;

a document retrieval system, retrieving document.

13. A method of formatting a document for use at a document using device, wherein the document includes document data and document intent information,

said document intent information provided as a set of quantitative values indicative of relative importance of document properties;

said document using device using the formatted document in accordance with said document usage capabilities and quantified intents; and

said document formatting for said document using device depending on said document intents.

14. The method as described in **claim 13**, wherein said formatting provides a closest possible match between effective quantified intents of the formatted documents, formatted for said document using device and said document intent information.

15. The method as defined in **claim 14**, wherein said effective quantified intents are calculated from measurable intent properties of said formatted document.

16. The method as defined in **claim 15**, wherein said measurable intent properties of said formatted document depend on formatting decisions resulting from document intent information of the document.

17. The method as defined in **claim 13**, where the measurable intent properties are dependent on the document using device.

18. A document using system, presenting a document described in a data format including document data and quantitative document intent information, including

a user interface, at which quantitative document intent information may be specified by a document user.

19. A document using system, presenting a document described in a data format including document data, and quantitative document intent information, specified by a document creator including:

a document using system user interface receiving document user quantitative intent information;

a document using system document processor, combining document creator quantitative document intent information, and document user quantitative document intent information, prior to presenting the document.

20. The document using systems defined in **claim 19**, and wherein the document using system processor applies a set of reconciliation rules to the document creator quantitative document intent information, and document user quantitative document intent information, in order to determine the appropriate combination thereof.